



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

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UDWR Officers Assist Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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On October 24, 2009, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) conservation officers responded to a trespass complaint in the Minnie Maude area of Carbon County. During the course of the investigation the officers spoke with Mr. Kelly Clark. The officers noticed that Mr. Clark was in possession of a resident hunting permit and an Alaska driver's license.

A preliminary investigation was conducted to determine Clark's residency status. In Utah, a resident is defined as a person who has been domiciled in the state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the purchase of a license or permit; and does not claim residency for hunting, fishing, or trapping in any other state or country.

While conducting a review of Clark's hunting history in Utah and Alaska, UDWR investigators determined that Clark had been harvesting big game animals in both states using resident permits. Subsequently, a joint investigation was launched between The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers Division.



Clark was ultimately charged with several violations of illegally taking big game animals, including a brown bear, in Alaska.

Alaska Assistant Attorney General Andrew Peterson summarized the results of the investigation;

" Kelly Clark was arraigned and pled guilty to three offenses in the Anchorage District Court. He pled guilty to one count of taking a brown bear without a license, and two counts of license, tag or permit violation (2007 and 2010). These offenses essentially take into account all of Clarks violations over the years. Clarks composite fine was \$8,000, plus \$15,212.00 in restitution and jail surcharges for a total of \$23,362. The fines and restitution must be paid within one year. Clark also has 90 days of jail, all suspended, revocation of his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for one year and forfeiture of all of the animals taken. Clark has 30 days to deliver the hides and horns to the AWT (Alaska Wildlife Trooper) Post in Anchorage. This is an exceptional resolution that was the direct result of a great investigation. In fact, I think it is one of the largest restitutions I have secured in a non-commercial case for a first time offender."

The successful resolution of this Alaskan case would not have occurred if it weren't for the efforts of two observant patrol officers responding to a public call for service in rural Utah.

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